

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A method of copy protecting an optical disc carrying encoded data, control data, and an authenticating signature, the encoded data, control data and the authenticating signature having been applied to the disc during a mastering process, ~~[[and]] the method of copy protecting the optical disc comprising the steps of~~ comprising:

making up the authenticating signature from data patterns arranged such that the authenticating signature cannot be accurately written onto a copy disc by a writer for recordable discs which has a limited ability to look ahead during encoding, wherein the data patterns of the authenticating signature are arranged to have a DSV (digital sum value) which has a rapid rate of change, thereby to cause DSV problems for writers of recordable discs.

2. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein the existence of corrupted or otherwise incorrect data in a particular sector on the optical disc [is to be used to signify] signifies that that disc is not original whereby its use may be prevented.
3. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein successful operation of the copy protected disc requires that the disc be present in the drive and that a correct authenticating signature be readable therefrom.
4. (canceled)
5. (currently amended): A method according to ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, wherein the data patterns ~~are chosen to~~ ensure that the DSV has ~~a significant~~ an absolute value significantly greater than usual.

6. (currently amended): A method according to ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, wherein the data patterns which ~~are chosen to cause the~~ DSV problems are repeated patterns of values.
7. (currently amended): A method according to ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, wherein the size of the data patterns causing the DSV problems is a predetermined amount.
8. (canceled)
9. (currently amended): A method according to ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, wherein the data patterns which ~~are chosen to cause the~~ DSV problems are arranged to produce a DSV which has a substantial low frequency component lower than that of the lowest signal frequency that does not cause DSV problems.
10. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~or claim 4~~, wherein the authenticating signature is also made up of sectors containing only zeros which are provided both before and after sectors containing the ~~chosen~~ data patterns.
11. (currently amended): A copy protected optical disc carrying data comprising:

encoded data, control data, and an authenticating signature which were applied to the disc during mastering, wherein the authenticating signature is made up of data patterns arranged such that the authenticating signature cannot generally be accurately written onto a copy disc by a writer for recordable discs which has a limited ability to look ahead during encoding, wherein the data patterns of the authenticating signature are arranged to have a DSV (digital sum value) which has a rapid rate of change, thereby to cause DSV problems for writers of recordable discs.

12. (currently amended): A copy protected optical disc according to claim 11, wherein the data patterns of the authenticating signature have a size and/or a nature which ensures that they cannot be accurately written by a ~~CD writer~~ writer of recordable discs.
13. (canceled)
14. (currently amended): A copy protected optical disc according to ~~claim 13~~ claim 11, wherein the data patterns ~~are chosen to~~ ensure that the DSV has a ~~significant~~ an absolute value significantly greater than usual.
15. (currently amended): A copy protected optical disc according to ~~claim 13~~ claim 11, wherein the data patterns which ~~are chosen to~~ cause the DSV problems are repeated patterns of values.
16. (currently amended): A copy protected optical disc according to ~~claim 13~~ claim 11, wherein the size of the data patterns causing the DSV problems may be a predetermined amount.
17. (canceled)
18. (currently amended): A copy protected optical disc according to ~~claim 13~~ claim 11, wherein the data patterns which ~~are chosen to~~ cause the DSV problems are arranged to produce a DSV which has a substantial low frequency component lower than that of the lowest signal frequency that does not cause DSV problems.
19. (currently amended): A copy protected optical disc according to ~~claim 13~~ claim 11, wherein the ~~chosen~~ data patterns have been copied to a plurality of sectors on the optical disc.
20. (currently amended): A method of authenticating a copy protected optical disc carrying encoded data, control data, and an authenticating signature, the

encoded data, control data and the authenticating signature having been applied to the disc during a mastering process wherein the authenticating signature is made up of data patterns arranged such that the authenticating signature cannot generally be accurately written onto a copy disc by a writer for recordable of recordable discs which has a limited ability to look ahead during encoding, wherein the authenticating signature is of data patterns which cause DSV (digital sum value) problems and wherein the data patterns are arranged to have a DSV which has a rapid rate of change, thereby to cause DSV problems, and the method comprising the step of the method comprising:

requiring a disc drive to locate and accurately read the authenticating signature on the disc in order to enable operation of the copy protected disc.

21. (canceled)

22. (currently amended): A method of enabling the mastering of an optical disc by an enabled encoder, where a pre-mastering recordable disc carries user data which is to be read by, from which a drive associated with the enabled encoder is to read data during the mastering process, and carries a blocking file made up of data patterns which cannot generally be accurately read by a disc drive wherein the data patterns cause DSV (digital sum value) problems for a disc drive, the method comprising the step of comprising:

providing on the pre-mastering recordable disc information as to the existence and location of the blocking file, the drive associated with the enabled encoder being arranged not to read the blocking file in response to said to the existence and location information.

23. (currently amended): A pre-mastering recordable disc for use in a process for mastering optical discs, wherein the pre-mastering recordable disc carries data comprising:

~~the data~~ user data to be carried on the optical discs, ~~wherein the recordable disc carries and~~

a blocking ~~file made~~ file made up of data patterns added to ~~a recordable~~ the pre-mastering recordable disc during the authoring or premastering process, and wherein the data patterns cause DSV (digital sum value) problems for a disc drive, thereby the data patterns cannot ~~generally~~ be accurately read by a disc drive.

24. (canceled)
25. (currently amended): A pre-mastering recordable disc according to ~~claim 24~~ claim 23, wherein the data patterns have a DSV which has ~~a significant~~ an absolute value significantly greater than usual.
26. (currently amended): A pre-mastering recordable disc according to ~~claim 24~~ claim 23, wherein the data patterns which ~~are chosen to cause~~ the DSV problems are repeated patterns of values.
27. (currently amended): A pre-mastering recordable disc according to ~~claim 24~~ claim 23, wherein the size of the data patterns producing the required DSV may be a predetermined amount.
28. (currently amended): A pre-mastering recordable disc according to ~~claim 24~~ claim 23, wherein the data patterns which ~~are chosen to cause~~ the DSV problems are arranged to have a DSV which has a rapid rate of change.
29. (currently amended): A pre-mastering recordable disc according to ~~claim 24~~ claim 23, wherein the data patterns which ~~are chosen to cause~~ the DSV problems are arranged to produce a DSV which has a substantial low frequency component lower than that of the lowest signal frequency that does not cause DSV problems.